

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER**

**JULY 2016**

**TITLE OF PAPER: LANGUAGE MEANING AND USE**

**COURSE CODE: ENG 203/ IDE-ENG 203**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. This paper has three (3) questions.**
- 2. Question 1 is compulsory.**
- 3. Choose one other question between Question 2 and Question 3.**
- 4. Question 1 is worth thirty (30) marks and Questions 2 and 3 are worth twenty (20) marks each.**
- 5. Presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions where necessary, and good language use will attract credit.**

**This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.**

## QUESTION 1

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Tess went down the hill to Trantridge Cross, and inattentively waited to take her seat in the van returning from Chaseborough to Shaston. She did not know what the other occupants said to her as she entered, though she answered them; and when they had started anew, she rode along with an inward and not an outward eye. One among her fellow-travellers addressed her more pointedly than any had spoken before: "Why, you be quite a posy! And such roses in June!"

Then she became aware of the spectacle she had created to their surprised vision: roses at her breast; roses in her hat; roses and strawberries in her basket to the brim. She blushed and said confusedly that the flowers had been given to her. **When the passengers were not looking, she stealthily removed the more prominent blooms from her hat and placed them in the basket where she covered them with her handkerchief. Then she fell to reflecting again, and in looking downwards a thorn of the rose remaining in her breast pricked her chin.** Like all the cottagers in Blackmoor Vale, Tess was steeped in fancies and prefigurative superstitions; she thought this an ill omen – the first she had noticed that day.

(a) From the passage above, find synonyms of the following words:

(i) Flowers [1 mark]

(ii) Passengers [1 mark]

(b) State the semantic relationship that exists between each of the pairs below:

(i) Flower –rose [1 mark]

(ii) Pointedly – confusedly [1 mark]

- (iii) Inward – outward [1 mark]  
(iv) Thought - reflected [1 mark]

- (c) Assign the pragmatic force of the utterance: “Why you be quite a posy!...” [4 marks]
- (d) What are the connotations of the roses and strawberries, according to the passengers? [4 marks]
- (e) Give the presupposition contained in the following sentences, and identify the words that are responsible for the presuppositions:
- (i) Then she fell to reflecting again. [3 marks]
- (ii) A thorn of the rose remaining in her breast accidentally pricked her chin. [3 marks]
- (f) Identify and explain the way in which old and new information is marked in the sentences written in bold. [10 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

## QUESTION 2

- (a) Define the term “speech act”. [1mark]
- (b) Discuss the three principal components of a speech act. Use examples to illustrate your answer. [9marks]
- (c) Name the speech acts that are presented by the following sentences:
- (i) May God bless you. [2 marks]
- (ii) I promise to take care of myself. [2 marks]

- (iii) Congratulations on your promotion! [2 marks]
- (iv) Jabu is reading a novel. [2 marks]
- (v) John, you are the best player. [2 marks]

### QUESTION 3

Discuss the following concepts, and use examples to illustrate your answer:

- (a) Prototype [3 marks]
- (b) Stereotype [3 marks]
- (c) Sense and reference [4 marks]
- (d) Ambiguity [5 marks]
- (e) The principle of compositionality [5 marks]